

REMARKS

Claims 17-19 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the claims rejection set forth in the Office Action of September 13, 2004 in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

The Title, Abstract and Paragraph 1 of the specification stand objected to for certain informalities. In view of the replacement Title and Abstract submitted herewith, and the amendment to Paragraph 1, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hollstein et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4,248,379). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hollstein et al. teaches dedicated pumps for each color or powder paint source, each placed upstream of the color changer. Applicants' method as claimed uses only a single pump downstream--i.e., in fluid communication with an outlet of said powder paint color changer. Using a single pump in this manner obviously saves the costs of providing a pump per paint source as taught by Hollstein et al. Additionally, powder is conveyed with Applicants' method in a dense flow with substantially lower velocity between the paint sources and the color changer and will therefore be less exposed to friction and abrasion by hose materials and by the color changer itself. Less impact

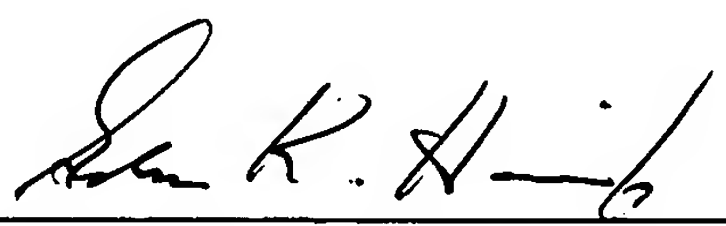
fusion and longer life of the hoses is expected with the instant invention. Finishing quality at the painted workpiece will be improved by avoiding accumulation of paint due to impact fusion and periodical release of agglomerated paint clumps from at least upstream of the color changer. Claims 17-19 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1219.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 30, 2007

By: 
Gordon K. Harris, Jr.
Reg. No. 28615

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

GKH/al